

THE IBIS.

SEVENTH SERIES.

No. XV. JULY 1898.

XXVIII.—*On a Hybrid Thrush found in Norway* (*Turdus iliacus* × *Turdus pilaris*). By R. COLLETT.

(Plate VII.)

IN December last I obtained a newly-caught specimen of a Thrush, which in size and plumage appears to be intermediate between *Turdus iliacus* and *Turdus pilaris*, and which I believe to be a hybrid between these two species.

The specimen was snared in Faaberg, Norway, the southernmost district of Gudbranddalen, on the 11th December 1897, together with some examples of *T. pilaris*. Its stomach contained only berries of the mountain-ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*). In Faaberg a great portion of the sides of the valleys extends into the subalpine region, and both *T. iliacus* and *T. pilaris* commonly breed there. In most of the colonies of the far more numerous *T. pilaris* one or more pairs of *T. iliacus* will be found.

The hybrid specimen, which was quite fresh and uninjured when it came into my hands, was of the following dimensions:—Total length, 253 millim.; length of wing, 131; length of tail, 89. In size it was thus about halfway between the dimensions of its supposed parents. (Six unskinned specimens of *T. iliacus* measured, on an average, in total length 221 millim., eight of *Turdus pilaris* 275 millim.)

The generative organs of the hybrid were quite rudimentary, and the sex could not be determined with absolute certainty. I may remark that on various occasions I have dissected about forty specimens of hybrid Grouse, and in none of these have I found the sexual organs so indistinct as in this bird.

In almost all details the plumage of the hybrid was somewhat between the plumages of its supposed parents, and it is not easy to determine which of them it most resembles. Possibly the upper parts are most like those of *T. pilaris*, and the lower parts those of *T. iliacus*. There is a broad buffy-white line over the eye, nearly like that of *T. iliacus*. The back is brown, but not quite of such a chestnut-brown as that of *T. pilaris*. The head and neck are inconsiderably lighter, and the rump olive-grey, a trifle darker than in *T. pilaris*, but perceptibly lighter than the back. The chin is almost unspotted, whitish with a buffish tint; the spots on the breast are black and arrow-headed, not very like those of either parent. The sides are reddish grey, the spots somewhat ill-defined at their edges (not so much as in *T. iliacus*); their colour is reddish grey in the middle, with rather lighter edges, but with an indication of assuming the triangular form, as in *T. pilaris*. The under tail-coverts are whitish in their outer portions and reddish grey at their roots. The tail is blackish, with broad greyish-brown margins. The upper surface of the wings is most like that of *T. pilaris*, but the second primary is of the same length as the fifth. The under wing-coverts are reddish, but not so dark or uniformly coloured as in *T. iliacus*. The longest are lighter towards the tip, and the innermost are reddish grey at the tips, but whitish at the base; the feet are of a dark yellowish grey. The bill is blackish, the lower mandible horn-colour at the base.

The diagnosis of this hybrid will therefore be as follows:— Size halfway between those of *T. pilaris* and *T. iliacus*. Eye-stripe broad, of a buffy white. Upper parts most like those of *T. pilaris*. Rump greyish brown, somewhat lighter than the back. Lower parts most like those of *T. iliacus*; the

side-spots somewhat triangular. Under wing-coverts rusty red mixed with pale red.

One specimen of the same hybrid has been previously procured in Sweden. On the 12th February, 1859, a Thrush was caught at Haga, near Stockholm, which, during the course of the following year, was described by Meves* as *Turdus illuminus* Löbenstein†.

This specimen is still preserved in the Riks Museum, Stockholm. Through the courtesy of Prof. Smitt, I have just been enabled to make a direct comparison between it and the present specimen from Gudbranddalen, and there can be no doubt that they are identical. They are of the same size. According to Meves, the Stockholm specimen measured:—Total length, 255 millim.; length of wing, 127; length of tail, 89.

The lower parts of the Swedish specimen, including the under wing-coverts, resemble the Norwegian bird, even to the smallest details. The upper parts of the Swedish bird are a trifle darker brown than in the Norwegian specimen.

Christiania, Feb. 15th, 1898.

XXIX.—*The Birds of a Bangkok Garden.*

By S. S. FLOWER, F.Z.S., Royal Siamese Museum.

THE Wang Na, the old palace of the second King of Siam, occupies a large piece of ground in the inner city of Bangkok. This was once a place of great pomp and magnificence; to-day its glories have departed. No longer a potentate holds court "with a standing of white elephants on the right side, and of white horses on the left," but weeds grow in profusion where they will, bats and owls occupy the ruined buildings, the long rows of barrack-rooms are empty, and the cannon lie on the ground amid the mouldering remains of their carriages. During last year the outer walls

* Öfv. Kgl. Vet.-Akad. Förh. Årg. 17, No. 4, p. 202 (Stockh. 1861); *The Ibis*, 1862, p. 182.

† 'Naumannia,' Bd. ii. p. 80 (Stuttgart, 1852).



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

Mintern. Bros. imp.

TURDUS ILIACUS X TURDUS PILARIS.